

### Did you know?

The Department of Defense has 2.1 million computers, 100,000 local area networks and more than 100 long distance networks.

# Airlift DISPATCH

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Charleston AFB, SC

### Charleston facts

On Aug. 14, 1965, the 437th Military Airlift Wing received its first C-141. By 1966, Charleston AFB C-141s routinely completed daily sorties into Viet Nam.  
(Source: Wing Historian's Office)

## Findley assumes command of 437th Airlift Wing

By Lt. Col. Ed Memi  
437th AW Public Affairs

Not even a downpour of two inches of rain could stop Brig. Gen. (Select) Vern M. "Rusty" Findley II from assuming command of the 437th Airlift Wing from Brig. Gen. Robert D. Bishop Jr., during a change of command ceremony Monday in the C-17 nosedock.

More than 270 airmen stood in formation while the senior base leadership changed hands. Bishop received the Legion of Merit for his accomplishments during his 21-month tenure as commander of the largest C-17 base. Findley is the 24th person to assume command of the 437th AW, having previously served as the commander of the 319th Air Refueling Wing, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.

Maj. Gen. John D. Hopper, Jr. commander of the 21st Air Force at McGuire AFB, N.J. presided over the ceremony and ensured a smooth transition of leaders.

"I am honored, humbled and just plain happy to be standing up here as your new



Staff Sgt. Andrew Rodier

**Brig. Gen. (select) Vern M. "Rusty" Findley II addresses the audience during the change of command ceremony.**

wing commander," Findley said upon assuming command. "Sandy and I pledge to give you 110 percent every minute of every day." He thanked his family and a

number of commanders for their support.

Findley described several qualities that he will focus on. "Pride...it is ever present in our Air Force today. I read

a book recently about Vince Lombardi, a famous football coach, and it was entitled, 'When Pride Still Mattered.' It was a good book, but I have to tell you I have a little problem

with the title because the title may insinuate that pride doesn't matter anymore. The author hasn't been to Charleston Air Force Base, and hasn't been around anyone from the United States Air Force because there is pride in everyone's eyes that wears that blue."

The second area will be to focus on displaying the highest degree of professionalism. "First and foremost, we need to get the mission done. Secondly, we need to take care of our people both personally and professionally.

"Thirdly, we'll go about making Charleston Air Force Base a better place to live for our families, friends and the members of the wing as we go down this journey."

"I'd also like to bring a further sense of passion. I'm very passionate about the Air Force. I have a passion for excellence, as you do. I have a passion for life; to continue to have fun and to be professional and be out front as this wing already is." Findley also thanked all the members of the wing for what they did yesterday, what they did to-

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## Military Equal Opportunity Office named best in Air Force

By Staff Sgt. Michael Duhe  
437 AW Public Affairs

After winning best in Air Mobility Command for the last three years, the 437th Airlift Wing Military Equal Opportunity office has been named best in Air Force.

"We're really excited about the award," said Capt. Christopher Wyckoff, chief of the MEO office. "The office was best in AMC for 1997, 1998 and 1999. It's long overdue for members of the office who've been here that entire time. It's a tribute to the staff. They've done a really good job and it's a big team effort on everybody's part."

Members of the office are Master Sgt. Leon Murray, Master Sgt. Percy Jones, Tech Sgt. Shirley Jones, Staff Sgt. Michael Hayes and Staff Sgt. Charlie Battle. MEO's overall mission is to eliminate discrimination and sexual harassment through awareness of cultural diversity. Specifically, it conducts programs for equal opportunity and treatment, assists commanders at all levels and ensures that the Air Force equal opportunity policy against discrimination and sexual harass-

**"It's a tribute to the staff. They've done a really good job and it's a big team effort on everybody's part."**

**Capt. Christopher Wyckoff  
Chief, Military Equal Opportunity**

ment is implemented effectively.

Among the accomplishments listed in the office's nomination package is its Equal Opportunity and Treatment/Human Relations Education Program. MEO has provided training that has surpassed all previous years - 114 "out and about" visits to various base units and agencies, 26 briefings, 19 unit climate assessments surveying more than 3,100 base members. MEO also provided 54 key personnel briefings. The end result of these efforts was a decrease in complaints on base.

The nomination package points out MEO instructors were consistently rated "outstanding" by first duty station students and newcomers training students. Unit commanders have consistently rated MEO's unit climate assessment process as

"outstanding" as well.

MEO promotes cultural awareness by hosting a variety of heritage month activities. More than 1,000 people attended these events, which included luncheons, a pinata party, a Holocaust memorial, a fashion show, a gospel extravaganza and a 5K run/basketball tournament. In addition, a number of heritage month articles were submitted to the base newspaper.

The MEO office also developed a quick reference guide for MEO services - a log that tracks all unit commanders and first sergeants and their in-bound/briefing date. This helps ensure all key personnel receive one-on-one training. The guide contains MEO duties and procedures, reference numbers for on-base and off-base support agencies. The guide is provided to unit commanders and first sergeants to handle any situation with their unit.

The MEO staff spearheaded and led the formation of the wing's first Climate Assessment Committee on which base support agencies provide commanders comprehensive information and

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